

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION INR-10

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R 010123Z MAY 87
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC//JSI-7//
TO DIACURINTEL
AIG 7011
AIG 7046
AIG 7032
AIG 7036
AMEMB KABUL AF
XMT USDAO MOSCOW UR

SERIAL: DIADIN-120-16A
SUBJ: USSR-AFGHANISTAN: KGB CHIEF VISITS BORDER. (U)
DOI: 30 APR 87 (AS OF 1955 EDT)
TEXT: 1. [REDACTED] KGB CHAIRMAN AND POLITBURO MEMBER CHEBRIKOV
INSPECTED KGB BORDER GUARD DETACHMENTS ON A 25 TO 30 APRIL TRIP TO
THE SOVIET CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLIC BORDER REGION NEAR AFGHANISTAN.
2. [REDACTED] CHEBRIKOV, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF OF THE KGB BORDER
GUARD TROOPS GEN MATROSOV, VISITED THE UZBEK AND TADJIK SSR'S AND
MAY ALSO HAVE CROSSED INTO AFGHANISTAN. HE REPORTEDLY VISITED

PAGE 02 RUEKJCS6472 [REDACTED]
TERMEZ, PYANDZH, AND MOSKOVSKIY, AS WELL AS THOSE SECTIONS OF THE
USSR-AFGHANISTAN BORDER PENETRATED BY AFGHAN RESISTANCE FORCES ON
THE 8TH AND 9TH. CHEBRIKOV ALSO ADDRESSED A CONFERENCE OF KGB
AUTHORITIES FROM THE TURKMEN, UZBEK, AND TAJIK SSR'S.
3. [REDACTED] COMMENT: CHEBRIKOV'S VISIT, APART FROM ITS BORDER SECURITY
MISSION, ILLUSTRATED THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP'S RECENT PUBLIC PROFILE.
ON MOSCOW'S INVOLVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN. INCREASED SOVIET NEWS MEDIA
ATTENTION TO THE AFGHAN WAR, ESPECIALLY THAT GIVEN TO CROSS-BORDER
RAIDS BY THE MUJAHEDIN, COULD BE PART OF A LARGER EFFORT BY THE
KREMLIN TO BUILD PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR REMAINING IN AFGHANISTAN.
SOVIET COMMENTARY HAS ELEVATED THE TWO BORDER GUARDS, REPORTEDLY
KILLED IN THE 8 AND 9 APRIL CROSS-BORDER RAID, TO NATIONAL HEROES IN
THE TRADITION OF DEFENDERS OF THE HOMELAND IN THE GREAT PATRIOTIC
WAR. GORBACHEV'S AGREEMENT WITH THE NEED FOR GREATER SENSITIVITY TO
BORDER SECURITY ISSUES COULD BE PART OF AN EFFORT TO CHANGE THE
PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF MOSCOW'S AFGHAN INVOLVEMENT FROM ONE OF
"INTERNATIONALIST DUTY" TO "DEFENDING THE HOMELAND."

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